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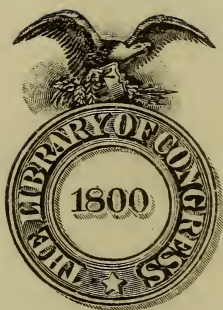
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Oregon.

Facts concerning
its climate, soil, mineral
and agricultural resources
commerce &c. &c.

1876.



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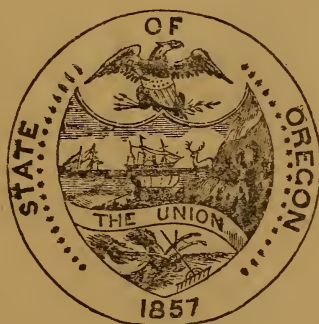


OREGON.

FACTS REGARDING ITS CLIMATE, SOIL, MINERAL
AND AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES, MEANS
OF COMMUNICATION, COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY, LAWS,
&c., &c.

FOR THE USE OF IMMIGRANTS.

WITH MAP.



OREGON STATE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION,
ANKENY BUILDING, PORTLAND, OREGON.

EASTERN OFFICE,
328 WASHINGTON STREET,
Room No. 8,
BOSTON, MASS.

1876.

The Oregon Central Railroad Company.

Passenger-trains from Portland for St. Joseph and all intermediate points every afternoon, except Sunday, returning from St. Joseph to Portland and all intermediate points every morning; connecting at Cornelius with stages for Forest Grove; at St. Joseph for all points south and west, — Lafayette, McMinnville, Amity, Monmouth, Independence, Buena Vista and Corvallis.

Passengers getting on the train at Ticket Stations without tickets will be charged twenty-five cents extra.

J. BRANDT, Jun., Superintendent.

LAND DEPARTMENT

OF

THE OREGON & CALIFORNIA RAILROAD COMPANY.

The Oregon and California Railroad Company have a large grant of land from the United States Government, which they sell on very liberal conditions at the low prices of \$1.25 to \$7 per acre, payable in United States currency. The purchaser can pay cash, in which case he will be allowed a discount of ten per cent on the purchase price; or he can have ten years' time in which to make up the same by small annual payments, with interest at seven per cent per annum. In this case the purchaser pays down one-tenth of the price. One year from the sale, he pays seven per cent interest on the remaining nine-tenths of the principal. At the end of the second year he pays one-tenth of the principal, and one year's interest on the remainder; and the same at the end of each successive year until all has been paid at the end of the ten years.

Suppose that eighty acres, at \$5 per acre, equal to \$400, were bought on a credit of ten years on August 1, 1874, the payments in this case will be as follows:—

NOS. AND DATES OF PAYMENTS.	PRINCIPAL.	INTEREST.	TOTAL.
1.....August 1, 1874	\$40 00		\$40 00
2.....August 1, 1875		\$25 20	25 20
3.....August 1, 1876	40 00	25 20	65 20
4.....August 1, 1877	40 00	22 40	62 40
5.....August 1, 1878	40 00	19 60	59 60
6.....August 1, 1879	40 00	16 80	56 80
7.....August 1, 1880	40 00	14 00	54 00
8.....August 1, 1881	40 00	11 20	51 20
9.....August 1, 1882	40 00	8 40	48 40
10.....August 1, 1883	40 00	5 60	45 60
11.....August 1, 1884	40 00	2 80	42 80
	\$400 00	\$151 20	\$551 20

Address letters and applications for land, *To the Land Department of the Oregon and California Railroad*, Portland, Oregon; or, *To the Eastern Office of the Land Department O. & C. R.R.*, 328 Washington Street, Boston.

Western Oregon — Its Resources and Climate.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

OREGON is the most north-westerly State in the Union, being situated between the 42d and 46th degrees of northern latitude. It is bounded on the east by Idaho, on the west by the Pacific Ocean, on the north by the Columbia River and Washington Territory, and on the south by California and Nevada. It extends, on an average, for 350 miles east and west, and for 275 miles north and south, and contains 95,274 square miles, with an area of about 60,000,000 acres.

The Cascade Mountains, with their lofty snow-capped peaks, stretch across the State from the north to the south, at a distance of about 110 miles from the Pacific Ocean. They divide the State into two distinct geographical sections, known as Eastern and Western Oregon.

The latter—that is, the region lying between the Cascade Mountains and the Pacific Ocean—is far more advanced in civilization than the former; and within its natural boundaries nine-tenths of the present population of the State are living. In mildness and healthiness of climate, richness of natural resources, and beauty of scenery, Western Oregon is unsurpassed by any part of the United States.

Another chain of mountains, the so-called Coast Range, also running north and south, at a distance varying from 40 to 70 miles from the Cascade Mountains, and proportionately nearer to the Pacific Coast, divides, in conjunction with the last-named chain and the spurs of both, Western Oregon into a number of more or less extensive valleys. The most important of these is the great valley of the Willamette River, flowing from south to north between the Coast Range and Cascade Mountains, in which latter it has its origin.

The Willamette Valley, the acknowledged garden of the Pacific Coast, is about 150 miles in length, and from 30 to 60 miles in width. The valley at large comprises many minor

valleys, traversed by the numerous tributaries of the Willamette. What with the towering mountains bordering it to the east and west, and its charmingly diversified surface of rolling prairie, dotted with wooded hills and fringed with thickly-timbered bottom lands, it forms a landscape of rare beauty.

On approaching the Valley of the Willamette by the Columbia River, the country along that river has the appearance of a dense forest, from the thick growth of tall evergreen trees near the stream and on the distant mountains; the timber and high banks obscure the view of the better portions of the Columbia River country. From the mouth of the Willamette, and south from Portland 20 miles, the country has nearly the same appearance.

Then a marked change comes over the whole appearance of the valley; a succession of beautiful, open prairies, with narrow skirts of tall firs, pine, oak, ash, maple, and cedar, border the prairies and tributaries of the Willamette River. This timber often gives the appearance of an extended forest, when there are only one or two miles of timber; and, again, a beautiful prairie opens to view, prairie and timber being conveniently combined.

In the southern part of Western Oregon, the largest valley is that of the Rogue River, which rises in the Cascade Range, and flows westwardly into the Pacific. It is rich both in agriculture and mineral resources.

Between the Rogue River and the Willamette Valley lies that of the Umpqua River, another tributary of the Pacific. This valley is 75 miles long, with an average width of 40 miles. It is also very productive.

CLIMATE. — SALUBRITY.

The climate of Western Oregon is mild and equable, differing in this from that of the Eastern States, that it is neither too hot in summer nor too cold in winter. Owing to the proximity of the Pacific and the Gulf Stream of that ocean, snow or frost never prevails to any considerable degree. The average temperature explains this fact. The average for spring is 52 degrees; for summer, 67 degrees; for autumn, 53 degrees; and, for winter, 39 degrees Fahrenheit, — showing a mean deviation of only 28 degrees during the year. The

average yearly rainfall is 44 inches, — about the same as at Davenport (Io.), Memphis, and Philadelphia. Thunderstorms are almost unknown in Western Oregon, and the disastrous hurricanes and whirlwinds of the Atlantic States entirely so.

According to the census of 1870, the death-rate in Oregon is lower than in any other State or Territory in the Union, excepting Idaho, being only .69 per cent of the population; while in California it is 1.16; in Vermont, 1.07; Massachusetts, 1.77; Indiana, 1.05; Illinois, 1.33; Kansas, 1.25; and, in Missouri, 1.63.

The equable temperature, the absence of high cold winds and sudden atmospheric changes, render people less subject to bronchial, rheumatic, and inflammatory complaints, than in other parts of the country where the extremes of heat and cold are greater, and the changes of temperature more sudden and violent. Malarious fevers prevail to some extent in the close proximity to water-courses; but they are of a mild type, and yield rapidly to treatment.

NATURAL RESOURCES.

Soil. — In the river bottoms, black loam prevails. The prairie lands immediately between the river bottoms and the hills forming the outrunners of the great mountain ranges, and known as "foot-hills," consist usually of a dark deep loam or marl, with a clay subsoil. The hill lands consist mostly of red, brown, or black loam; the red predominating in the central portion of the valley, and the black near the mountains.

Timber. — On the lowlands such evergreens as the fir, cedar, pine, and yew, as well as oak, ash, maple, and alder, grow in abundance for all purposes. In the "foot-hills" scattering oaks and firs, with a thick second growth in many places, are found. The mountain ranges are mostly heavily timbered with tall firs, pine, spruce, hemlock, cedar, larch, and laurel, without much undergrowth, except near water-courses. The growth of timber reaches what would be considered extraordinary dimensions in the Atlantic States; the fir and pine attain very great heights. Black walnut and hickory have been introduced successfully.

Minerals. — Iron and lead are found in various parts of the

State in large quantities. Limestone and coal have been found at many points. Gold and silver have been discovered all over the State, but only in Southern and Eastern Oregon in quantities warranting mining operations.

Natural Grasses.—The native grasses of Western Oregon are not surpassed in nutritiousness by those of any other part of the American Union; they retain their fattening qualities until late in the autumn. The rains, which fall regularly in May and June, prevent an early drying up.

Water Supply.—Oregon is probably the best-watered State in the Union. Western Oregon is traversed in all directions by rivers and smaller water-courses, fed by springs, melting snow from the highest mountains, and copious rains. There is a regular rainy season, lasting from early in November till April. Owing to the abundant rain, the extreme dryness that regularly prevails in the other Pacific States during the summer season is not experienced in Oregon. Soft, pure water abounds everywhere. The country is also well supplied with water-power for industrial purposes. Numerous mineral springs are found in the Willamette Valley, some of which are places of resort for invalids.

Fisheries.—The Columbia River is noted for its fine salmon, which, in various forms of preservation, constitute an article of export to all parts of the world. The fish are taken in tide-water in immense quantities, fresh from the ocean, as they ascend the river. The salmon-catch, as worked by nets and traps, now yields annually one million and a half of dollars; and a vast field is still open for business. Many other kinds of fish are taken. The mountain streams are full of fine trout.

Game.—Elk, deer, black and brown bears, Oregon cougar, or California lion, with numerous other smaller quadrupeds, and swans, geese, ducks, grouse, pheasants, and quails constitute the game of the country. Of the larger game, only the deer frequent the inhabited portions of the country. Winged game is especially abundant.

PRODUCTS.

Oregon is unquestionably the finest farming country in the United States. Every kind of agricultural product that

grows at all in Oregon attains a perfection, both as to size and quality, that are rarely found in other parts of the Union, not even excepting California. This is as strictly true of cereals as of vegetables and fruit.

Grain.—The wheat of Oregon is noted for its superior quality, and commands a high price in the grain markets of the world. The berry is very bright and plump, often weighing 65 to 69 pounds to the bushel measurement. Wheat is the principal product. Oats are next in importance. The standard weight for oats in Oregon is 36 pounds; but the soil and climate are so well adapted to their growth that the weight of 45, even of 50 pounds to the bushel, is often reached. Barley is also successfully raised. Corn is grown in many localities with success; but it is not made a specialty, the average summer being too cool for its successful culture. With good cultivation the wheat lands will yield from 26 to 45 bushels of wheat per acre, 40 to 70 bushels of barley, and from 68 to 80 bushels of oats. These figures can be safely relied on.

Weevil, smut, or drought is seldom known in Oregon. *No failure of the wheat crop has occurred since the settlement of the country; that is, during a continuous period of thirty years.*

Flax.—The soil and climate of Western Oregon seem peculiarly favorable to the culture of flax, but thus far it has been pursued mainly for the seed. The lint has been tested in Europe (Dundee and Belfast); and competent authorities have pronounced it in fineness, strength, and quality quite equal to the best European growths.

Vegetables.—A superior quality of every kind of vegetable is grown. Potatoes, cabbages, turnips, squashes, beets, carrots, parsnips, cucumbers, tomatoes, and onions grow in profusion. Potatoes yield from 200 to 500 bushels to the acre. Root diseases are unknown.

Fruit.—Apples, pears, and plums grow in such abundance that trees have to be regularly propped up to prevent them from breaking under the weight of their crops. Pears, plums, cherries, and German prunes are very superior. Strawberries, currants, raspberries, and gooseberries grow abundantly, and have a peculiarly fine flavor. Several varieties of the hardier kinds of grapes are raised in large quantities. Peaches grow

well in some favorable localities; but the Willamette Valley cannot be called a good peach country, owing to the coolness of the summer nights. In 1875, establishments were erected at various points for drying fruit; and the result is very encouraging. The fruit is of the best quality, and finds a ready sale in San Francisco, as well as in New York, China, Japan, South America, Australia, and other ports, thus opening an unlimited market for this product. Over 1,170,000 bushels of apples were gathered in 1875.

Cultivated Grasses.—Timothy or herds' grass grows well in every part of the State, and is the staple article for hay. Red and white clover, with proper preparation of soil, grow luxuriantly; Alfalfa, blue grass, and orchard grass do finely everywhere.

Live Stock.—The mild winter climate of Oregon, and the fact that the grass remains green nearly the whole year, make it an excellent country for raising every kind of stock. Oregon wool is of recognized superior quality, owing to the cool summers, warm winters, and continued green feed for sheep. The State census of 1875 enumerates 512,300 sheep, 98,500 hogs, 67,300 horses, 235,000 head of cattle.

Dairies.—The climate especially favors the successful pursuit of the dairy business. The cool summer nights, the abundance of cool spring-water, the freedom from sultry and wet weather and thunder-storms during the warm season, greatly facilitate the production of butter and cheese.

According to the State census, Oregon had in 1875, 560,000 acres of land in cultivation, producing:—

Bushels of wheat	.	.	.	.	.	.	5,080,000
“ “ oats	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,850,000
Bushels of barley	.	.	.	.	.	.	241,000
“ “ rye	.	.	.	.	.	.	17,000
“ “ corn	.	.	.	.	.	.	94,000
“ “ potatoes	.	.	.	.	.	.	506,000
“ “ apples	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,171,000
Tons of hay	.	.	.	.	.	.	192,000
Pounds of wool	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,860,000
“ “ cheese	.	.	.	.	.	.	188,000
“ “ butter	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,472,000

POPULATION, TOWNS, &c.

The population of Oregon is about 108,000 souls. The principal centre of population is the city of Portland, the commercial emporium of the State, with a population of over 15,000, situated 13 miles from the junction of the Willamette and the Columbia Rivers. It is practically a seaport, the Willamette River being navigable for ocean steamers as well as sailing vessels. The commerce of Portland is very extensive. The other leading towns of the State are Salem (the capital), Oregon City, Albany, Harrisburg, and Eugene City,—all these on the Willamette,—Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia, and Roseburg and Jacksonville in the southern part of the State.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

Navigable Streams.—The principal navigable river is the Columbia, which is navigable throughout the year to the Willamette, 100 miles from its mouth; and thence eastwardly with two interruptions at the Cascades and the Dalles, where there are railroad portages, to Priest's Rapids in Washington Territory, 396 miles from the ocean; and on its tributary the Snake River, to Lewiston in Idaho, 470 miles from the ocean. The Willamette River is navigable for ocean steamers and sailing vessels to Portland, 110 miles from the sea, and for river steamers for 100 miles during six months of the year. The obstruction caused by the falls of this river at Oregon City has been overcome by means of locks. Several tributaries of the Willamette are navigable during the winter season.

There is regular communication by ocean steamers between Portland and San Francisco, Washington Territory, British Columbia and Alaska; and by river boats to all points on the Columbia and Willamette.

Railroads.—The Oregon and California Railroad is now completed from Portland to Roseburg, in the Umpqua Valley, a distance of 200 miles. It follows the east bank of the Willamette, and touches all the leading towns of the State. From Roseburg a stage route, 275 miles long, leads to Redding, in the Sacramento Valley, the present terminus of the California railroad system.

Another railroad, the Oregon Central, is in course of construction from Portland up the west bank of the river. Fifty miles of it are now completed and operated.

Various railroads are projected to connect Oregon with the Pacific roads and the railroad system of the Atlantic States.

Common Roads.—The natural roads of the State are good. The country being open and rolling, and the ground seldom frozen, they are nearly always in passable condition for marketing products from the farm.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Commerce.—The vastness of the natural resources of Oregon, the development of which has been very rapid during the last few years, together with the means of internal communication described, and the favorable geographical position of the State, have given rise to a very active domestic and foreign trade. The products of the Willamette and Umpqua Valleys are carried thence by the Oregon and California and Oregon Central Railroads, or by steamboats on the Willamette to Portland, from which place they are regularly shipped to the United Kingdom, the Sandwich Islands, China, Australia, and San Francisco. A cargo of wheat can be shipped from Portland, Oregon, to Europe, for less money than from Chicago, the great grain-market of the West. During the harvest year of 1873-4, 55 cargoes of wheat and flour were shipped from Portland direct to the United Kingdom.

The Governor of the State, in his last message to the Legislature, delivered Sept. 16, 1874, says, "The value of our exports has reached a sum certainly exceeding ten millions of dollars. I estimate the export value of our wheat and flour at nearly four millions, gold; of oats, other grain, and fruits, one million; of wool, hides, meats, cattle, and horses, at two millions; of salmon, at one million five hundred thousand; of lumber and coal, at one million; of gold, silver, and iron, at one million five hundred thousand. This exhibit for a population of one hundred thousand people is almost without a parallel."

Industry.—The production of lumber has already attained very large proportions. Throughout the State saw-mills are

in successful operation. They produced 100,000,000 feet in 1875. Much of the lumber is exported.

Fine flour-mills of large capacity are also found in all parts of the State, the most important of which are located in towns on the Willamette.

The manufacture of woollen goods is already a very important interest. It has reached a value of not far from \$1,000,000.

There exist also iron furnaces and foundries, machine-shops, agricultural implements, factories, paper-mills, oil and flax mills, and tanneries in the State. But, taken as a whole, the industry of the State is as yet but moderately developed, notwithstanding the unusual inducements offered by its natural resources and the wants of its inhabitants.

VARIOUS OTHER INTERESTS.

Labor: Wages.—Common laborers earn \$2.00; mechanics, \$3.00 to \$5.00; farm-hands, from \$25.00 to \$30.00 a month, and found. These figures are in gold. Farm-laborers, and especially female servants, are in good demand. The latter earn as high wages as in California. Persons with some means and a knowledge of farming or a mechanical trade can easily establish themselves, and, with frugality and industry, acquire a competency in a few years.

Ruling Prices.—For the past two years wheat in bulk at Portland has averaged from 80 cents to \$1.20 per bushel; oats, 50 cents; potatoes, 50 cents to 75 cents; apples, 50 cents; corn, \$1.00; flax, \$2.00; onions, \$1.50; good average farm-horses, \$100 each; oxen, \$125 per yoke; good average milk cows, \$25.00; sheep, \$3.00 per head; wool, common graded, 35 cents per pound; beef on foot, 5 to 6 cents; fresh pork, 7 cents. The currency of the country being gold and silver, the above figures represent coin prices paid to producers.

Price of Land.—In the valley of the Willamette, good brush and timber lands can be purchased for \$2.50 per acre, and upwards, according to soil and locality. All the prairie lands are, however, taken up, but can be bought at from \$8 to \$50 an acre. Along the foot-hills, and near them, small tracts or farms can be purchased with ample outside pasturage for extensive stock-farms. The Oregon and California Railroad Company have a large grant of land from the United States Government, which they sell on very liberal conditions.

at the low prices of \$1.25 to \$7 per acre, payable in United States currency. The purchaser can pay cash, in which case he will be allowed a discount of ten per cent on the purchase price; or can have ten years' time in which to make up the same by small annual payments, with interest at seven per cent per annum. In this case the purchaser pays down one-tenth of the price. One year from the sale, he pays seven per cent interest on the remaining nine-tenths of the principal. At the end of the second year, he pays one-tenth of the principal and one year's interest on the remainder; and the same at the end of each successive year until all has been paid at the end of the ten years. There is an abundance of Government land surveyed and in the market, subject to the homestead and pre-emption laws.

Taxation.—State taxes are $5\frac{1}{2}$ mills; county taxes, from 5 to 12 mills; both exclusive of school taxes, which amount to 3 mills.

Public indebtedness in 1875:—

State	\$106,583
County	105,903
Town, city, &c.	6,000
Total,	\$218,486

Schools.—The common-school system of Oregon is much better than that of many of the older States. The State is also well provided with institutions for more advanced education. There is a large State school fund accumulating, which will eventually be nearly sufficient to support free schools.

SUMMARY.

Oregon invites the poor and the rich alike. We know of no other State in the Union offering such inducements to the poor man as does this State, while the man of wealth can invest his capital more safely and profitably here than anywhere else. Instead of the terrible cold and excessive heat, the frightful hurricanes and long winters, of the Eastern and Prairie States, and the frequent droughts of California, Western Oregon enjoys mild winters and cool summers, with ample moisture, undisturbed by hurricanes and thunderstorms.

The eminent statesman, the late William H. Seward, spoke as follows in the published account of his visit to Oregon: "It

is in Oregon so far as I am able to determine, and nowhere else, that the Pacific climate, with its cool summers and mild winters, embraces and produces a higher and more varied fertility than is elsewhere realized. The fruits of Oregon are unsurpassed in quality, and unequalled in abundance. Wheat and other cereals grow and ripen here almost without care, as abundantly as they do with the use of irrigation in Utah, while the native soil, everywhere covered with fern and annual flowers, provokes the farmer to the cultivation of the potato and other esculent roots. What acquaintance I have made with the adventurous miners, descending the Columbia River, satisfies me that, if it were possible for the laborer to fail in other occupations, he would even in that case find an abundant reward in the gold deposits of the mountains. The useful metals and minerals abound everywhere; while a vast hydraulic power, invaluable under all circumstances, and indispensable in new communities, is distributed throughout all parts of the State."

Pamphlets with map and full description of the State, and all needed advice and assistance, may be had, free of charge, on application at the

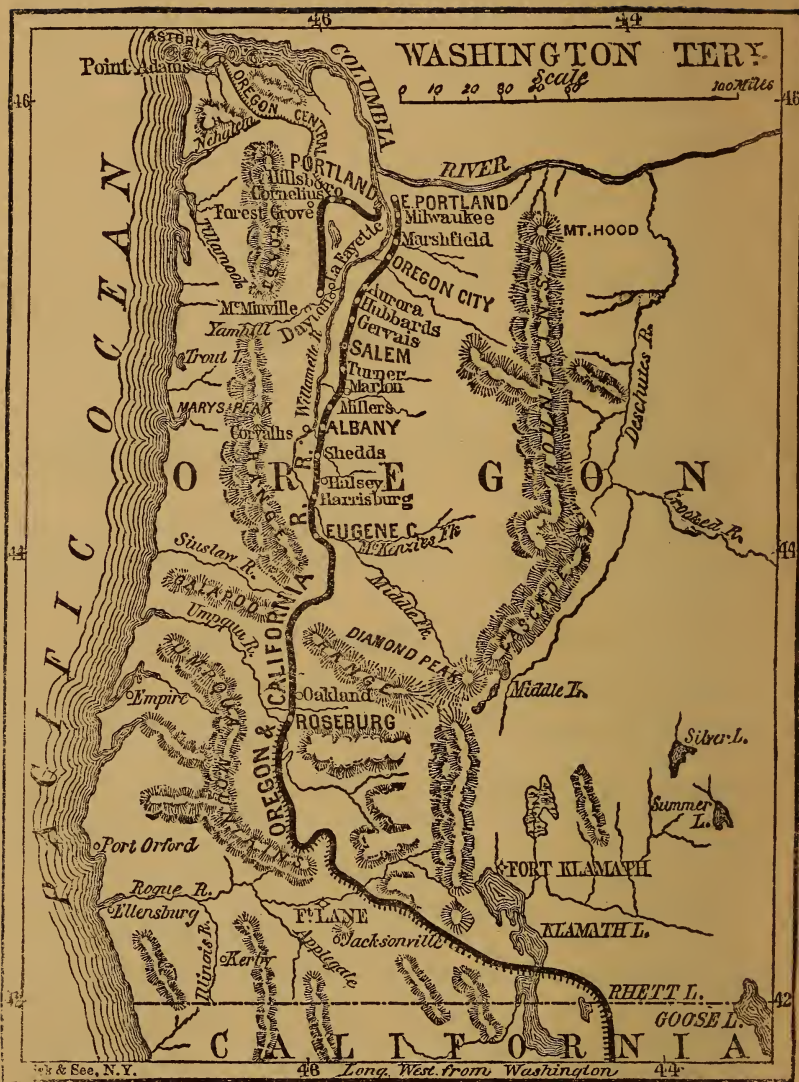
OREGON STATE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION.

Ankeny's Building, Portland, Oregon.

Eastern Office, 328 Washington Street, Room 8, Boston, Mass.

Emigrants purchasing through tickets to any point on the Oregon and California and Oregon Central Railroads at the Office of the Oregon Steamship Company, 210 Battery Street, San Francisco, can obtain them at half the regular rates.

Upon their arrival, immigrants will do well to call at the LAND OFFICE of the O. & C. R. R., Railroad Building, Room No. 10, third floor, near the steamship landing, where they will receive all needed information in reference to settlement and lands, and on application obtain half-fare tickets on the railroad to their destination. A large collection of samples of Oregon products is kept at the Railroad Land Office for public inspection; also a complete set of township plats, showing all Government and railroad lands within thirty miles on both sides of the O. & C. R. R. Maps of Western Oregon will be furnished to immigrants FREE OF CHARGE.



OREGON AND CALIFORNIA RAILROAD COMPANY.

Through passenger-trains from Portland every morning, except Sundays, for **Oregon City, Salem, Albany, Junction City, Eugene City, and Roseburg**, returning from Roseburg every morning, except Sundays.

Daily local express-trains from Portland to Albany and intermediate points each afternoon, except Sundays; returning from Albany and all intermediate points every morning, except Sundays.

The Oregon and California Railroad Ferry makes connection with all regular trains.

Close connections are made at **ROSEBURG** with the stages of the Oregon and California Stage Company.

👉 Tickets for sale to all the principal points in California and the East, at Company's Office, **Cor. F and Front Streets, at Ferry Landing, Portland, Oregon.**

J. BRANDT, Jun., Superintendent.

OREGON STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

STEAMERS

John L. Stevens, Oriflamme, Ajax, and George W. Elder

Leave Folsom-Street Wharf, San Francisco, Cal., for Portland, Oregon, three times a month during the winter, and weekly, Saturdays, 10 A.M., during the remainder of the year, connecting at Portland with steamers for

Washington Territory, British Columbia, and Alaska,

and with boats for all points on the Columbia River; also with the Oregon and California, and Oregon Central Railroads and connecting stage-lines, for the Willamette, Umpqua, and Rogue River valleys, Oregon.

The steamers leave Portland for San Francisco, three times a month in the winter, and once a week during the other seasons.

For cabin or steerage passage, apply to

K. VAN OTERENDORP,

General Agent and Superintendent,

210 Battery Street,

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.,

Or at the Wharf on day of sailing.

1876.

1876.

Oregon at the Centennial.

Persons visiting the Centennial International Exhibition at Philadelphia, Pa., during the present year, will there have an opportunity of inspecting and comparing with similar products from all parts of the world, the natural, cultivated, and manufactured products of Oregon, exhibited in the Agricultural department of the exposition, section E, 22, south-west division of the building.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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